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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Airfields in the Russian

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ORIGIN

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2018

DATE 12 August 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENT: 2 maps

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1. Strausberg (V-15). 10 May 1947

There was no air activity on this date, and no supplies or vehicles were observed. The field held forty to fifty American DC-3 aircraft, either new or recently overhauled. Hangars and other buildings, with the exception of barracks, are damaged but can be repaired easily. There are no concrete runways. Radio communications appear to be handled by a radio car, estimated to be of not more than eighty watt capacity. [redacted] believes this may be a supply field. (See Attachment I).

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2. Werneuchen (V-06). 12 May 1947

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During several hours observation, [redacted] counted one German AR-96, one SI-204, five PO-2, and eighty-eight PE-2 aircraft at this field. The PE-2's were most active, but landings and take-offs were rated poor by [redacted]. A type of PO-2 with three cockpits was seen. The runway is not cemented and is in poor condition, covered with sand, and has holes in it. Buildings on the field appeared to be in good shape. Lack of rust on the railway siding suggested that it is being used. (See Attachment II).

3. Güterfelde (Z-73).

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- 28 May - The airfield is being improved and enlarged and a concrete runway is under construction.
- Early June - A few square kilometers near the village of Gütergotz were marked off by Russian surveyors and afterwards were plowed up although this area was being used agriculturally. It is said that this airfield will be used as a training base by the Soviet units at Werder and Rangsdorf.

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4. Altengrabow (Z-00). About 1 June 1947

Six or seven PO-2 planes were observed on the field which lies near the town of Altengrabow. A three-section hangar there is believed capable of holding approximately thirty PO-2's. The field is said to have been built by the Russians in 1945.

5. Scharteuke (Y-93). About 1 June 1947

The former Silva ammunition plant was located in a forest area approximately seven kilometers northwest of Genthin and west of the railroad line. The stop on the line is Scharteuke. All trees have been cut down in this area, which is now being leveled by German workers and some 200 Russian soldiers who openly say that an airfield is to be built. Except for three barracks used by the troops, all barracks have been dismantled and the factory buildings demolished.

6. Merseburg (D-91). Late May 1947

Considerable air activity has been observed in the Halle-Merseburg area since 20 May. Approximately fifty fighters have been based on the Merseburg field since that date. Two-plane patrols are flown at low altitudes; there also appears to be some training in progress.

7. Bindersleben (J-26).

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- a. 24 May - The Erfurt city councillors have been informed by the Oberbürgermeister that the dismantled Bindersleben airfield is to be reconstructed for use by civilian aircraft. The order for reconstruction, however, was issued by the Soviet city commander.
- b. 1st week in June - The field has been evacuated. Runways and the cement taxi strip were blasted when Soviet troops withdrew sometime in May, but hangars and other buildings were not touched. These buildings are not occupied. A small patch of land near the outer runway is being cultivated by local residents.

8. Dresden (P-29). 21 May 1947

The airfield north of the industrial section of the city on the Heller is being plowed up.

9. Möckau (S-21). 22 May 1947

Various farmers have been prevented from entering the field and their vegetable plots have been plowed up. The Russians are reported to be urging German workers to speed up their work on the runways. A single JU-52 has been seen rising and landing at this field.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~10. Schkeuditz (E-12).

Two reports have been received on this field:

- a. 15 May - This field had not been occupied according to March and April reports, but a [REDACTED] who visited it on 15 May observed the landing of eight flights of aircraft (each three to four planes) which [REDACTED] could not identify. He estimated their speed at about 250 mph.
- b. 3 June - Two Soviet fighter groups, comprising approximately sixty aircraft believed to be former German ME's, have been stationed at Schkeuditz since 21 May. The repair shops at the field are altering and assembling planes for the Russians. Three SI-204 have been rebuilt as transport and passenger planes, with replacement of various motor parts; more aircraft of this type are to be remodeled. The total number planned is not known, but there are enough wings and fuselages for approximately twenty. A few C-47's also are being rebuilt; seven have been converted to passenger carriers to date. In addition, two four-engine Douglas aircraft have been delivered to the field by the Russians, who want them reconstructed.

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